and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Corruption Cases

748. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Director General of Mines Safety was arrested by CBI while taking bribe from IISCO;

(b) whether it is a fact that many corruption cases have been found in this organisation;

(c) if so, what corrective measures Government plans to do in this matter; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No other such complaints of corruptions in the DGMS organisation have been received.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Programmes/Schemes for eradication of poverty

749. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 796 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th August, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government have formulated some programmes and schemes for eradication of poverty in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) The major poverty eradication programme being implemented in the rural areas of country are (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); (ii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY); (iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS); and (iv) National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). The Nehru Rozgar Yojana and the Prime Ministers Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP) are the poverty eradication programme being implemented in the urban areas of the country.

The details of these programmes are given below:—

(i) *Integrated Rural Development programme (IRDP):* IRDP is in operation in all the blocks of the country. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented on a 50:50 basis by the Centre and the States.

IRDP aims at providing self-employment opportunities to the rural poor through assistance in the form of subsidy and bank credit to enable them to acquire productive assets and appropriate skills to cross the poverty line on a sustained basis. The target group consists largely of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans whose annual income is below the poverty line of Rs. 11,000 at 1991-92 prices. Within the target group there is an ensured coverage of certain categories—SC/ST 50%; women 40%; and physically handicapped 3%. Priority in assistance is also given to the families belonging to the assignees of ceiling surplus land, green card holders under the family welfare programme and freed bonded labourers.

(ii) *Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY):* The JRY is a wage employment programme where the main objective is the generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and unemployed rural people, on public works which would lead to creation of rural infrastructure and assets for more sustained employment. This programme was modified in 1993-94 and is now implemented in 3 streams. Under the 1st stream funds are earmarked for

the Million Well Scheme and Indira Awaas Yojana at the State level; the remaining funds are allocated to districts on an index of backwardness. At the district level 20 per cent funds are retained and the remaining 80 per cent are allocated to the village panchayats.

Second Stream of JRY: The Second Stream of JRY namely Intensified Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was introduced in 1993-94 in 120 backward districts where there is concentration of uemployment and unemployment. Funds under this stream are retained at the district level for undertaking works which can provide sustained employment to the people. These works include irrigation, social conservation, water harvesting works, farm forestry, construction of roads, primary school, primary markets etc. From 1995-96, 50 percent of the funds are earmarked for taking up activities within a watershed plan.

Under the *Third Stream* a small portion of JRY funds is earmarked for taking up special and innovative projects on a limited scale.

(iii) *Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS):* A new scheme called the Employment Assurance Scheme was launched in 1993-94 in 1752 identified backward blocks situated in drought prone, desert, tribal and hill areas, in which the revamped public distribution system was in operation. The EAS has now been extended to cover 2475 blocks of the country in all States and UTs excluding Goa, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondichery. The additional blocks include the new DPAP and DDP blocks, MADA blocks and the flood prone areas of the country. Under this scheme assured employment for 100 days of unskilled manual work has to be provided to those who are seeking it, during the lean agricultural season. The secondary objective is the creation of rural infrastructure and community assets. From 1995-96 50 per cent of funds have been earmarked for taking up works under watershed development. In addition minor irrigation works, rural roads, construction of primary school buildings and anganwadis is permissible.

(iv) *National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP):* The Government has recently formulated the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for the welfare of the poor. This is being implemented throughout the country as a Central Scheme from the 15th of August, 1995. The National Social Assistance Programme has three components which are targetted to people living below the poverty line viz.

(i) The National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS): Under this scheme an Old Age Pension of Rs. 75 per month is provided per beneficiary. It is applicable to persons aged 65 years and above.

(ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS): Under this scheme a lump sum family benefit is provided to the bereaved household in case of the death of the primary bread winner. An amount of Rs. 5,000 is provided in case of death due to natural cause and Rs. 10,000 in case of accidental death. This scheme is applicable to eligible persons in the age group 18 to 64.

(iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS): Under this scheme there is a provision of Rs. 300 per pregnancy for pre-natal and post-natal maternity care upto the first two live births to women belonging to poor households. This benefit is provided to eligible women of 19 years and above.

Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY): The Nehru Rozgar Yojana is designed to tackle the problem of urban poverty. It

has three components (i) the scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) to encourage self employment and skill upgradation by providing subsidy, loan, training and infrastructural support; (ii) the Scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE) provides wage employment opportunities to urban poor; and (iii) Scheme for Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU) provides technical training in construction trades and assists beneficiaries belonging to weaker section of society (EWS) in housing and shelter upgradation.

Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP): Recognising the seriousness and complexity of urban poverty problems especially in the small towns having population between 50,000 to 1,00,000 where the situation is more grave due to lack of resources for planning their environment and development, the Prime Minister had announced on 15th August, 1994 an integrated scheme for amelioration of poverty known as the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP). The foremost objective of the new programme is to attack several root causes of urban poverty simultaneously, in an integrated manner. The specific objectives under the new programme will be (i) effective achievement of social sector goals; (ii) community empowerment; (iii) convergence through sustainable support system; (iv) improvement of hygiene and sanitation; and (v) environmental improvement.

(c) Does Not arise.

MOC officials joining Reliance Industries

750. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Senior Level Technical and other official up to Secretary level of the Ministry of Commerce and its attached/subordinate offices have joined M/s. Reliance Group of Industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for the las three years and on what basis th requisite Government permission wa granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THI MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir No senior officer of the Ministry o Commerce or its attached/subordinat offices has sought or obtained permissio to take up employment with M/s Reliance Group of Industries during th last 3 years.

Steps to improve trade relations wit Romania

751. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK Will the Minister of COMMERCE b pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have take any steps to improve the trade relation with Romania;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo Romania trade relations have bee established;

(c) the new areas in which the export i proposed to be increased to Romania i 1995-96; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THI MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBRAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Our major items of export t Romania have included iron ore, ferr alloys, oil meals, castor oil, drug pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals an coffee; items of import have include fertilisers manufactred, gold and silve iron and steel, artificial resins, plasti material etc., project goods, non ferrou metals, organic/inorganic chemicals an transport equipment.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to expan the valume of trade in the existin commodities being exported to Romania Some of new areas in which the export t Romania could be increased ar computers in CKD/SKD condition, ad on cards for the automation industry an